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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/227,854	01/11/1999	JIAN NI	PF210D1	7606

22195 7590 04/05/2004

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT.
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EXAMINER

BRANNOCK, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1646

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/227,854

Applicant(s)

NI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Brannock

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 35-54 and 60-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 35-54 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 60-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application: Claims and Amendments

Applicant is notified that the amendments put forth in the response filed 01/20/04 have been entered in full.

Maintained Rejections:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 60-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for polypeptides *consisting* of portions of SEQ ID NO: 2 that may or may not also include heterologous sequences, does not reasonably provide enablement for a genus of polypeptides that *comprise* only portions of SEQ ID NO: 2 or have a recited identity with SEQ ID NO: 2. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims, as set forth previously and partially reiterated below.

The claims encompass polypeptide variants of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, i.e. substitutions, deletions or insertions in a protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2; yet the specification has not provided sufficient guidance as to how to make and use polypeptides which are not 100% identical to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, but which still retain a desired property of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. The claims require polypeptides comprising only

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portions of SEQ ID NO: 2, e.g. those comprising only 30 consecutive amino acids in the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. No specific information is provided regarding the positions or identities of the remaining amino acids, which may make-up the greater portions of the claimed proteins. The claims also require polypeptides having a recited degree of identity with SEQ ID NO: 2. Thus, the vast majority of polypeptides being claimed are amino acid sequence variants of SEQ ID NO: 2, i.e. amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions in a protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2, yet the specification has failed to teach one of skill in the art which amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions to make. Furthermore, the specification has not provided guidance as to what properties of the allelic variants or sequence variants of the protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2 might be desired nor any guidance as to which amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions to make to achieve any desired property. Applicant has not defined a difference in structure or difference in function between the protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2 and variants of said protein. If a variant of the protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2 is to have a structure and function similar to the protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2, then the specification has failed to teach one of skill in the art which amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions to make that will preserve the structure and function of the protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2. Conversely, if a protein variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 need not have a disclosed property, the specification has failed to teach how to use such a variant.

Although the claims have been amended to require that the recited protein variants have the activity of being chemotactic for leukocytes, the specification has failed to teach which amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions to make that will preserve this function in a the protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2.

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Claims 60-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, as set forth previously. .

Although the claims have been amended to require that the recited protein variants have the activity of being chemotactic for leukocytes, the artisan of ordinary skill appreciates that simply verbalizing or writing down that a polypeptide should have a certain function or activity in no way places one in possession of such a polypeptide.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Brannock, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0869. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler, Ph.D., can be reached at (571) 272-0871.


Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 872-9306. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

MB



March 29, 2004



YVONNE EYLER, PH.D.
SUPERVISOR, EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1000